

In Memory of

Dr. Samuel S. White

and

Dr. James W. White.

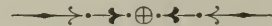
"par nobile Teatrum."


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Samuel G. White



J. W. White



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IN MEMORY

OF

DR. SAMUEL S. WHITE

AND

DR. JAMES W. WHITE.

"PAR NOBILE FRATRUM."

NOTE.

The accompanying address, written by a member of the business staff upon the occasion of the death of Dr. James W. White, is published in compliance with the expressed wish of numerous old-time friends of the "two royal brothers."

THE S. S. WHITE
DENTAL MANUFACTURING CO.

Philadelphia, 1893.

IN MEMORIAM.

FELLOW-EMPLOYES OF
THE S. S. WHITE DENTAL MFG. CO.

SORROWING FRIENDS,—We may not all come face to face this side the narrow river; but a common bereavement has brought us heart to heart, and stirred within us a common sympathy with each other and for the family of our honored President and beloved friend, so suddenly called from us into the world beyond.

We have heard his last kindly salutation, and with the spoken response have looked our unconscious farewell into his genial face. The preacher, standing over his silent form, has pronounced his eulogy and the benediction, and friends who had stood by him living have taken what was mortal of him for the last time out from the home of his earthly loves and laid it to rest under the roses and the blue sky. The fellows of his profession, his contemporaries in business, and the men who knew and honored him in public affairs, have spoken their

praises and their condolence; the solitary recipients of his kindness, and the helpless whom he had comforted, have shed their tears in silent grief; and it is meet that we who for these years past, few or many as we may severally number them, have been his fellow-laborers and the special objects of his daily watch and care, should bring our tribute to his memory, appropriately recalling at the same time, in this brief farewell review, the former head and proprietor and his lamented removal.

Some of us, instinctively looking back from under this cloud toward the morning of our companionship, catch sight of two brothers associated, both young, courageous, and hopeful; and our hearts leap at the remembrance of him who had been the founder of the business, and who was for all those years—notably the period following the dissolution of the old firm of Jones, White & McCurdy—our inspiring leader and chief, the trustful, generous employer, and the constant, considerate friend, to whom we might always go for counsel and encouragement. Just and marvelously wise in his judgment, broad and resolute in his plans for the future, meeting difficulties with patient courage and removing obstacles with the grasp of a

conqueror, he builded a grander monument for himself even than he knew, by his unselfish encouragement of those enlisted with him.

The writer, now approaching the completion of forty glad years of this continuous service, and of intimate personal relations with these two royal brothers, whose friendship has been like unto the very rain and sunshine of life, and from the first without an unwelcome shadow, recalls, with others of our number, the years of the earlier administration, when many of the present force were at school or in their cradles, and hundreds of them unborn; and in the distant retrospect we see the elder brother as the quiet partner, toiling at the foundations of a business in which he foresaw great possibilities, until, weary of divided responsibilities, and impatient of a tardy progress, he purchases on friendly terms and at a liberal sum the interest, first of one and subsequently of the other, of the old-time partners, and takes the helm himself for a new departure.

Scarcely has he found his bearings, however, when clouds appear in the national sky, with ominous mutterings of political trouble; but, with a sublime trust in the Divine guidance, and words of cheer to all hands, we now find him with heart and hands

unfettered, although with financial obligations to the two retired partners from which some of his wisest friends feared it impossible that he could ever redeem himself, moving on under full sail into the tempest of the rebellion war; colors nailed to the mast and every soul kept aboard, fighting his way through obstacles and dangers before which stout hearts quailed and timid men surrendered and fled for safety; with face undaunted, holding his steadfast course ahead, although urged from right and left by anxious friends to furl sails and run to shelter; meeting his obligations, the Lord only knowing how; now taking from the imperiled capital a sum wherewithal to "aid the government" (quoting his words at the time), and thus unwittingly placing his own name actually first upon the roll of patriot subscribers to the initiative national loan, and again, on a later occasion, coming gallantly to the rescue with funds for the instant equipment of a regiment of waiting troops; encouraging volunteers from his own force, and assuring employment and support to all who should return, as well as to those remaining; and so on, through "times that tried men's souls" and ordeals that proved their mettle, grandly meeting his call as a patriot American, and bringing our business craft through peril in safety to success.

At length, in the days of smiling peace and a reunited country, we find him singing the doxology and bending his wonderful energy to a broader enlargement of the business and the betterment of the world as related to him, through an intelligent development of the best possibility for every helper and every patron; himself, in stature, movement, face, and soul, unconsciously a pattern, faithful, cheerful, wise, and tireless to the end.

Gentle as a mother in his sympathy and affection, and yet the lion-hearted champion of any who were wronged or tempted, he filled the complete measure of a MAN. It was a labor of love to serve him, and we shall be forgiven if, in our hearts, SAMUEL S. WHITE was enshrined among the idols.

We congratulate the still surviving members of his devoted household upon their priceless heritage, in the memory of such a husband and father, protector and guide. Verily, he walked the path of the just, beckoning us all onward toward the light of that perfect day into which he himself finally entered. We reverently recall his memory, and thereby inspire anew our loyalty to all things good and true and manly, as exemplified in his life.

When the merciful Father called him to his rest, there stood beside him the one man upon whom his mantle might at once appropriately fall; and all hearts and eyes were turned, by a common impulse, to DR. JAMES W. WHITE, the faithful brother who had from the beginning shared with him the cares and labor of the business, as also the confidence and affection of the entire force of employés; and the history of the eleven intervening years, with the expanding business, the augmented force, and the multiplied responsibilities, has demonstrated the wisdom of the company in calling him to preside over its management, and has proven our own good fortune as well, in that the lines have still fallen to us amid such pleasant surroundings and under such a congenial leadership.

To most of the present employés the events of these later years have been the total of this experience; but with all the sacred memories that hold the veterans of our force also to the earlier associations, we lift our hands as one in pledge of our loyalty to his memory who but yesterday passed from our mortal vision.

Worthily filling the lamented brother's place at the head of affairs, and successfully laboring to bring

every department of the business to higher excellence and a world-wide fame, he has also, by the same self-sacrificing interest in our welfare, bound our hearts to him by ties that time will not sever and the eternal days will only strengthen. Burdened with cares, and constantly employed, he was never "too busy" to listen to the plea of the humblest when sick or in trouble; never failing to proffer something of help and comfort, and this in such a gracious fashion that his words and his look were often better for cure than a medicine. Holding varied and weighty responsibilities, he was never so beset with perplexities that he was not ready to give a prompt and helpful decision, and yet never so set in his own judgment of a matter that his ear was not open to the advice or opinion of his friends.

Through the tempestuous period he had been our leader's chief of staff, and our splendid pattern of the practical helper, counselor, patriot, and philanthropist. Guided by an intelligent and lofty purpose, and impelled by unfaltering courage, he showed the way when others were bewildered, promptly acting when many another man trembled and hesitated. The history of the Sanitary Commission during the war, and the records of the various benevolent enterprises of his time, bear

witness how his fertile brain and ready hands made effectual the generous impulses of men and women lacking only a wise leader, and the memories of uncounted beneficiaries pay grateful tribute to his genius for help.

We admired his keen sense, his bright intelligence, and his unexcelled orderliness of plan and labor, largely the secret of the business success; the prompt and vigorous manner of his antagonism of whatever appeared to him wrong; and his unswerving loyalty to country, humanity, and the right. In all these things we have lost a faithful teacher, and the world another ideal man. But he was more and better than all these to us. WE LOVED HIM BECAUSE HE LOVED US. We were, to the last individual of those who came to know him well, conscious of this implicit, abiding trust in him as our personal friend, surely believing that somewhere, along with the tender thoughts of wife and sons and kindred, we too had each our place in his affectionate remembrance; and verily the world seems less like home since he departed.

To the devoted companion of his domestic life and the children by whom he was idolized,—the family for whom all things else would have been with

him a glad sacrifice,—we tender the assurance of our unmeasured sympathy, bespeaking for them great comfort in the remembrance of his beneficent life. There will be, for them and for us all, a wealth of pleasant and helpful memories as we recall the numberless tokens of his kindly nature, strewn like flowers along all the paths he trod, brightening and perfuming the way for every fellow-traveler.

A prolonged epoch of our lives and in the history of the business has terminated; and while the tide of material affairs moves on with the grand impulse of their lives, we may well pause to say of the two whose names are now enrolled among the immortals, “PAR NOBILE FRATRUM”! They showed us how to live. Let us follow on, in a like faithful service of our fellows, our country, and our God, until with them we enter upon a loftier service, in the broader fields and under the fairer skies of the eternal home.

S. R. BINGHAM.

Chicago, June, 1891.

